

In the Claims:

Please amend the following claims.

1. (Amended) A method of managing a secure [(7)] terminal [(1)] used for transactions with smart cards, comprising [having the following steps]:

- placing a smart [(22)] card [(5) is placed] in contact with the terminal,
- executing a program by the terminal [is made to execute a program (26)], this program including sensitive operations [(29)] related to making the transactions secure, [characterised in that]
- counting the number of times a request is made to the terminal to execute sensitive operations [is counted (32, 16)], and
- restricting the action of this terminal [is restricted as soon as] when this count reaches [(33)] a [fixed] predetermined value.

2. (Amended) A method according to Claim 1, [characterised in that] further comprising

- providing the terminal [is provided] with a removable electronic security circuit [(8)], and
- counting in this circuit the number of requests for sensitive operations which are made to it or sensitive operations executed by it [are counted (16) in this circuit].

3. (Amended) A method according to [either of Claims 1 or 2, characterised in that] claim 1, further comprising

- dividing the sensitive operations [are divided] into a number of classes and
- establisng a count [(16, 17) is set up] for each class.

4. (Amended) A method according to [one of Claims 1 to 3, characterised in that,] claim 1, further comprising:

- executing [as] a sensitive operation, a mutual identification procedure between the terminal and the card [is executed].

5. (Amended) A method according to [one of Claims 1 to 4, characterised in that,] claim 1, further comprising:

- as a sensitive operation, performing an authentication (PIN) of a carrier of the smart card [is performed].

6. (Amended) A method according to [one of Claims 1 to 5, characterised in that,] claim 1 further comprising:

- as a sensitive operation, performing a verification of a certificate coming from a smart card [is performed].

7. (Amended) A method according to [one of Claims 1 to 6, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein

- the counter is re-initialized by a secure procedure including a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

8. (Amended) A method according to Claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein

- the secure procedure includes a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.

9. (Amended) A method according to Claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein

- the re-initialization is performed remotely by a master system.

10. (Amended) A method according to [one of Claims 1 to 9, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein

- the counter is incremented after a successful sensitive operation.

11. (Amended) A method according to [one of Claims 1 to 10, characterised in that] claim 1, wherein

- for restricting, only some [(47)] of the operations of the planned transaction are prevented.

12. (Amended) A security circuit for implementing the method according to [any one of Claims 1 to 11 characterised in that it has] claim 1, wherein the management means [(16, 17, 32, 39)] is capable of:

- identifying and counting requests coming from outside and restricting its functions as soon as the count reaches a predetermined number.

A2
cont.
A23
Please add the following claims:

13. A method according to claim 2, further comprising
 - dividing the sensitive operations into a number of classes and
 - establishing a count for each class.
14. A method according to claim 13, further comprising:
 - executing a sensitive operation, a mutual identification procedure between the terminal and the card.
15. A method according to claim 14, further comprising:
 - as a sensitive operation, performing an authentication (PIN) of a carrier of the smart card.
16. A method according to claim 13 further comprising:
 - as a sensitive operation, performing a verification of a certificate coming from a smart card
17. A method according to claim 13, wherein
 - the counter is re-initialized by a secure procedure including a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.
18. A method according to Claim 17, wherein
 - the secure procedure includes a verification of a secret code by the terminal or the security circuit.
19. A method according to Claim 17, wherein
 - the re-initialization is performed remotely by a master system.
20. A method according to claim 13, wherein